

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. **(ORIGINAL)** A method of processing image data, the image data including a first subset of the image data and a second subset of the image data, comprising:
identifying in the image data a hole, a hole being an area associated with the first subset, the hole being substantially surrounded by an island associated with the second subset, and the island being substantially surrounded by a greater area associated with the first subset.
2. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1 further comprising
altering the image data so that the hole becomes associated with the second subset.
3. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, further comprising
applying a simplification algorithm to the image data; and
suppressing alteration of image data associated with the hole during the applying step.
4. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, further comprising
altering the image data if the hole is within a predetermined size range.
5. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, further comprising
maintaining, for at least a subset of image data associated with the hole, a data structure including a variable indicative of whether the image data has been previously altered.

6. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, further comprising
maintaining, for at least a subset of image data associated with the island, a data
structure including a variable indicative of whether the image data has been previously
altered.

7. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, further comprising
maintaining, for the image data, a set of window data structures associated with
windows in the image.

8. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 7, each of the window data structures including
a history variable indicative of whether the image data associated with the window structure
has been previously altered.

9. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 8, further comprising
for two adjacent runs in a scanline in the image data, comparing the history variable of
the window data structure associated with each run.

10. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 9, further comprising
if the history variable of the window data structure associated with each adjacent
portion indicates that both window data structures have previously been altered, reversing
alteration of one of the adjacent portions of the scanline.

11. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein the image data is associated with
an MRC selector plane.

12. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein the greater area is substantially
surrounded by a more-greater area associated with the second subset.

13. **(WITHDRAWN)** A method of processing image data, the image data describing runs and windows in an image, comprising:

maintaining, for the image data, a set of window data structures associated with windows in the image, each of the window data structures including a history variable indicative of whether the image data associated therewith has been previously altered.

14. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED/WITHDRAWN)** The method of claim ~~12~~¹³, further comprising

for two adjacent runs in a scanline in the image data, comparing the history variable of the window data structure associated with each run.

15. **(WITHDRAWN)** The method of claim 13, further comprising

if the history variable of the window data structure associated with each adjacent run indicates that both window data structures have previously been altered, reversing alteration of one of the adjacent portions of the scanline.

16. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 12, wherein the image data is associated with an MRC selector plane.